

THE SAXHAMS PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 September 2015

at St Andrews Church, Great Saxham

Present:

Councillors: Michael Burt (Chairman), Sue Dunn (Councillor), Jennie Moody (Councillor), Fred Gittus (Councillor) and Lisa Gleave (Clerk)

The Chairman, Michael Burt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Action

1. Apologies for absence – Carol Hall, Jonathan Clarke and Helen Ferguson.
2. Declarations of Interest – none.
3. Minutes of last PC meeting held on 25 June 2015 – approved by all present and signed off by the Chairman.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 25 June 2015
 - Vehicle Activated Speeding Signs – The VAS was in Little Saxham for 1 month and has successfully slowed vehicles down and recorded data. The brackets were £50 each. The VAS will return for 1 month in October and will be shared between Little and Great Saxham. We still have speeding traffic through Honey Hill Farm and the VAS will be installed in this area in October.
 - Bus Stops at Gt and Little Saxham – Gt Saxham: No date for works yet despite the Clerk chasing. Little Saxham: To be carried forward to the next meeting.
5. Suffolk Police Report – There was no Police present. The Chairman read out a letter from Suffolk Constabulary explaining Police presence will be reduced at meetings as they are needed out in the community. If an incident arises and they are required to attend a meeting, then a specific request should be made.
6. St Edmundsbury Borough Council Report – Councillor Houlder was not in attendance. The Chairman read out his report. Briefly, it is being debated whether the brown bin service should be scrapped entirely or a charge of between £35-£50 pa be implemented for the service. This would save the Borough nearly £0.5 million. The Council has approved a funding stream for the locally controversial West Suffolk Waste Hub. A new consultation phase will start in October for 6 weeks to look at options for sites. West Suffolk has now made just about all the cuts/savings/efficiencies (£4 million) they can whilst maintaining services. In future, with continued Government cuts both the SCC & Districts are going to feel more financial pain.
7. Suffolk County Council Report – Terry Clements was in attendance. More of Suffolk's 16 year olds achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment this year. Pupils achieving the expected level in reading, writing and maths in primary schools in Suffolk also continues to rise. The Suffolk Skills Show 2015 will take place at Trinity Park on 21.10.15 between 9 am and 6pm. It provides an opportunity for businesses to showcase their work. For more information, visit www.suffolkskillsshow.com. SCC has partnered with First Buses to launch a new range of tickets around Ipswich, which will benefit Endeavour Card holders. Further information on the scheme can be found at www.suffolkonboard.com/endeavour-card/16-19-card. SCC's cabinet discussed proposals to re-finance part of the capital costs of the Energy from

Lisa
Gleave/
Mike Burt

Signed

Chair

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Waste facility at Great Blakenham. More of Suffolk's 16 year olds achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment this year. Suffolk Walking Strategy 2015-2020 aims to make walking the default choice for journeys of 20 minutes or less on foot and for walking to be seen as fun. Local groups with an interest in walking are being asked to come forward with ideas to get Suffolk people involved. To find out more contact Alexandra Blowers on 01473 260080 or email Alexandra.blowers@suffolk.gov.uk.

Jennie Moody enquired about installing mirrors at blind spots at the crossroads at Twites Corner and on the bends at Little Saxham (turning right to Hargrave). The Clerk made enquiries and was informed by SCC that they do not allow mirrors to be installed on highways. It requires planning permission to install them on private property. Terry will look into this further. We have reduced the speed limit to 40 mph at Twites Corner. The Police need a safe place to use a speed gun. We could request a speed survey be carried out.

8. Highway matters – The white lines on the bends in Little Saxham have faded and the verges are being eroded away. We need to re-mark the edges to encourage vehicles to keep off the verges. Clerk to email Guy Smith and cc Terry Clements. Lisa Gleave

9. Correspondence –
The Chairman briefly ran through the correspondence.

- Information from SALC re Precept Data
- Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth. This event will take place on 14 March 2016. Anyone wishing to take part can find details from the [Fly a Flag](#) website.
- NALC Legal Topic Notes
- Rural Services Questionnaire. Clerk to complete.
- Letter from St Eds BC re Gypsy Sites – The Chairman explained St Eds BC are requesting landowners and other interested parties come forward with any suggested short stay stopping sites for the Gypsy and Traveller Community by 16 November 2015. FAQ and details on how to reply can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/shortstay.

Lisa Gleave

10. Planning – Applications considered since last meeting or those for which a decision is required:

- DC/15/1641/HH – Single storey rear extension, Bella Bista Twites Corner, Great Saxham. **No Comments.**
- DC/15/1694/TPA – Tree Preservation Order, Flints Bury Road, Little Saxham. **No Comments.**

11. Planning applications granted/refused:

- DC/15/0988/HH – 1 Sheepwash Cottage, Barrow – single storey cart lodge - **Approved.**
- DC/15/0924/HH – Twites Barn, Twites Corner, Gt Saxham – proposed garden room - **Approved.**

12. Play Area: The Chairman ran through the annual inspection report. All problems highlighted are low or very low risk and so no specific action will

Signed

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be taken at present. Helen Ferguson will look at the reports quarterly and bring any matters to our attention.

13. Finance

- Cheques (see attached list) - agreed by all present.
- Bank Reconciliation circulated and approved.
- Annual Audit. The Chairman confirmed the accounts have been approved by our external auditors, BDO Stoy Hayward.
- Budget Proposals for 2016. Councillors were reminded that the budget will be set at the next meeting. Please contact the clerk with any project proposals before the next meeting.
- Funding Opportunity for compliance with Transparency Code. A funding opportunity has arisen for small Parish Councils to recoup the costs they have incurred in complying with the new Transparency Code. The Chairman and the Clerk will work on this and at least attempt to recoup the cost of the website training.

Lisa
Gleave/
Mike Burt

14. Matters for consideration at the next meeting:

- Budget
- Bus Stops at Gt and Little Saxham

15. Village Events: Gt Saxham Quiz Night, 6.30 for 7 pm 31 October 2015 at Barrow Village Hall, Barrow.

16. Any Other Business – Fred Gittus is having issues with broadband speeds. Nobody else present was having difficulties but the Chairman will make some enquiries.

17. Date of next meeting – Thursday 19 November 2015 at 7.30 pm St Nicholas Church, Little Saxham.

Proposed Meetings for 2016:

Thursday 18 February 2016
Thursday 12 May 2016
Thursday 23 June 2016

The meeting was closed at 8.25 pm.

Contact details:

Michael Burt	01284 810134	mike_burt@btopenworld.com
Jonathan Clarke	01284 810408	jgc.saxham@btinternet.com
Helen Ferguson	01284 811696	helen.alletson@btinternet.com
Fred Gittus	01284 810692	fred@gittus.me.uk
Jennie Moody	01284	jennie@moodyblues.plus.com
Carol Hall	01284 850302	dancingbrave@hotmail.com
Sue Dunn	01284 810803	suedunnfba@msn.com
Lisa Gleave (Clerk)	01284 811986	lisa.gleave@hotmail.co.uk

Signed

Chair

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